GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1253
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
CLOSURE OF SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to close down the Safdarjung Airport, Delhi in the wake of recent terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US Embassy has also requested to divert theroute of flights taking off from Safdarjung Airstrip towards Roosevelt House at Chanakyapuri;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the Government on the request;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps to protect the Government/private buildings; nuclear establishments etc. from such threat perceptions; and

(f) if so, the details of such establishments and quantum of money spent thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) No, Sir.
(b) Does not arise.
(c)& (d): In the wake of recent incidents in USA, instructions have been issued modifying the Safdarjung Airport`s circuit so that aircraft taking off from that airport do not fly over the diplomatic areas.
(e) Orders prohibiting the flying in defined airspaces already exist.
(f) It may not be in the public interest to reveal these details.